

The hero of El Faluje, Brigadier Essayed Taha.
A man of Egyptian and Sudanese blood: a symbol of the unity of the Egypto-Sudanese nation.

PREFACE

I have come to this country to urge the British to discharge their obligations and leave Egypt. The fact that I have found here an unfriendly, unsympathetic atmosphere was not a complete surprise to me since this outlook has been the traditional British attitude towards us in the last seventy years. But a tone which caught my attention was the plausible contention that the untoward developments in the Palestine question have fundamentally altered the situation and that the supposed failure of the Egyptian army in Palestine has proved to the British that Egypt cannot be entrusted with the defence of the Suez Canal. Consequently, it is argued, the occupation of the Suez Canal Zone will still be necessary for years to come until the international situation is, it is hoped, improved ! !

I feel it is my duty to make known the facts relating to the heroic deeds of the Egyptian army in Palestine in their true light, facts which have been partly concealed and partly distorted by the Jews who possess and/or control some of the influential news agencies and other instruments of international propaganda. Our army's brave achievements have proved that it fully maintains its honourable traditions and that when put to the test under adverse conditions, it proved steadfast and unconquerable and has displayed an audacity and heroism parallel with the most courageous epics of the Second World War.

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THE PALESTINE DISASTER ?

The deplorable fate of the Palestinian Arab population constitutes one of the most shocking tragedies in the history of the human race — culminating in the displacement of 800,000 people, homeless, wandering aimlessly, in a state of starvation, destitution and sickness, easy prey to death and the inclement elements. This is certainly one of the worst defeats, but a defeat for England and not for Egypt. The British, thirty years ago, took charge of a nation in order to raise their standard of living and culture and introduce them to the " paradise " of democracy and establish among them the elevated English administration ! ! Behold the ultimate results of thirty years of British efforts : nearly a million Palestinian Arabs, who were leading a peaceful, honest life, became homeless. So the real defeat is Britain's and British policy, which culminated in this deplorable tragedy. It is also a defeat of the United Nations Organisation, whose resolutions were completely disrespected and whose representative was assassinated in cold blood as if he were the meanest criminal.

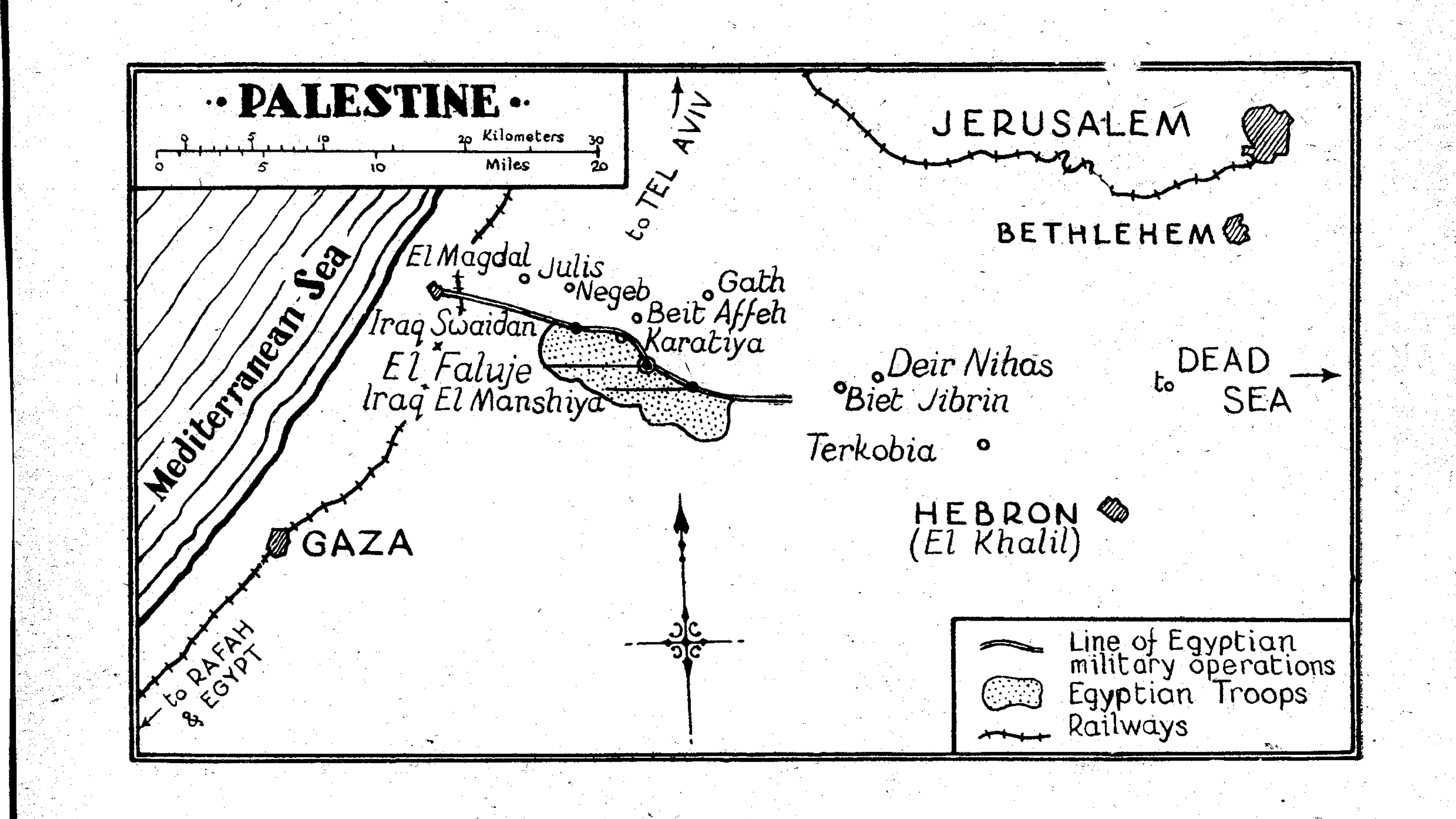
At the present the Zionists enjoy complete liberty of action, regardless of England's approval or disapproval, or of the UNO's likes

or dislikes, the Security Council's commands or prohibitions What is still more striking is that America, Britain and Russia, who hardly ever managed to agree on any problem, have actually agreed this time to relieve the Zionists from their duties of respect and regard to the UNO and to establish and support their infant state.

"EGYPT'S RESPONSIBILITY"

However, the question naturally arises, is Egypt free from all responsibility? Did she not make any mistake which partly led up to this sad situation? Yes, she did, and her mistake was a mortal one. She believed in the imaginary power of the UNO and chose to abide by the UNO'S resolutions, thus arresting the victorious advance of her armies through carefully observing the terms of the armistice on the grounds that, being a member of this institution it is Egypt's duty to carry out conscientiously its resolutions. In so doing she was almost the only country who had complete regard and respect for this international body. Naturally we now realise that we were misguided to have belief in justice, law and charters.

However, let there be no misunderstanding. The Egyptian Army is still in Palestine and the war is not finished: only the preface has been written.



PALESTINE
Kilometers
0 5 10 20 30
Miles
0 5 10 20
Mediterranean Sea
to TEL AVIV
JERUSALEM
BETHLEHEM
El Magdal
Julis
Negeb
Gath
Beit Affeh
Karatiya
Iraq Swaidan
El Faluje
Iraq El Manshiya
Deir Nihas
Biet Jibrin
to DEAD SEA
Terkobia
HEBRON
(El Khalil)
GAZA
to RAFAH & EGYPT
Line of Egyptian military operations
Egyptian Troops
Railways

THE EPIC OF FALUJE[1]

I.

The episode of Faluje is the epic of the Egyptian army in Palestine. This army, in co-operation with the other Arab armies, was invited into Palestine by the cry for rescue from the Palestinians whose men were assassinated, whose pregnant women were mutilated after being criminally assaulted by the Jews in order to exterminate or force them out of their own country.

The 4th Brigade, composed of the 1st, the 2nd, and the 6th Battalions, entered Faluje on June 20th, 1948. The advance started at 6 a.m. when the 1st Battalion left El Magdal, making for the route junction eastwards, occupying Iraq Swaidan, Iraq El Manshiye, El Faluje and Beit Jibrin and onwards to Deir Nakhkhas and Terkobia, which are a few miles from El Khalil (Hebron), and Artoun on the New Route leading to Jerusalem.

The successful march effected the siege of Negeb area.

The Jews felt the brunt of the siege and started to attack the First Battalion stationed along this long line.

Meanwhile the Second and Sixth Battalions hastened to support the First, and the great work began . . . .

But no one ever foresaw the great role which this Brigade was eventually destined to play.

A CRITICAL SITUATION.

On July 19th, the Security Council imposed an armistice on the two belligerent parties, which was accepted by Egypt. In the beginning the Jews pretended to abide by its terms. So both parties kept their positions and their lines of defence and all was quiet.

The crisis started on October 14th when the Moslem Bairam festivities were at full swing and the Egyptian officers were off duty in town. The Jews suddenly violated the truce by conducting an offensive in the Southern Front only, while the Eastern and Northern Fronts were left quiet. The Jewish forces were estimated by the Armistice observers at 100,000 men.

The Jews managed to take El Holaykat, which was the connecting point between the Fourth Brigade and the main army. To shorten

[1] This factual narrative is extracted from the official accounts published in the Egyptian newspapers, especially Akhbar el Youm.

his lines of communication and prepare to meet the attacking Jews at Gaza, the Egyptian General decided to retreat and evacuate El Magdal, which he started to do on October 16th. Meanwhile, the Transjordan forces evacuated Beit Jibrin, 10 miles to the east of El Faluje. Beit Jibrin was consequently occupied by the Jews. So the isolation of the Fourth Battalion was complete. The situation was precarious. The officer in charge of the Brigade was the then Colonel M. S. Taha, of the First Battalion, whom the Jews called " The Black Hyena " on account of his dark complexion, his valour and his audacity. His duty was now clear, and he was determined to do it. He had to face the storm and arrest the Jewish advance until the main Egyptian force had achieved its great withdrawal manoeuvre and was ready to take up the fight again.

The Jews realised the ultimate purpose of this distinguished soldier but they doubted whether he would be able to achieve this suicidal adventure.

General Stella's and Brigadier Baroukh's plan was to break the resistance of this encircled force in less than 24 hours and pass on to their greater target. This was the situation. At 6 a.m., 16th October, a general attack against the Fourth Brigade started. The heavy 105 millimetre guns from Negeb Colony opened fire on Iraq Swaidan forts. Gath Colony 25 pounders started to shell vigorously on Iraq El Manshiye while Russian " Matilda " and Czechoslovakian " Hotchkiss " tanks charged the El Faluje line.

A Palmach armoured force of 3,000 men started to move from Gath Colony. For the first time, Flying Fortresses appeared on the scene, escorted by Junkers 87 and Messer-Schmidt fighters, which vainly attempted to sweep the whole front of the Fourth Brigade. The position was worsened when the fighting Brigade received a serious message pointing out that the Egyptian air force could not cover or support because it was fully committed protecting the main army and covering its withdrawal manoeuvre.

A SHOWER OF SHELLS.

On 21st October, after five days of heavy attack, the Fourth Brigade was still secure in its position in the face of this unabating storm. On 22nd October, the UNO ordered a cease-fire. But the actual picture in the front was quite different from that which the UNO meant it to be by their resolutions. Hotchkiss and Sherman tanks were still firing heavily and advancing while the sky was overcast with Flying Fortresses, Junkers 87, Spitfires, Dakotas and Lysanders. 105 millimetre guns, 25 pounders, 16 pounders, heavy artillery, 6 inch, 3 inch, 2 inch Mortars were battering the Egyptian lines. The Palmach

forces, composed of Germans, Russians, Czechoslovaks, Poles, were charging vigorously, armed with small arms of every description — Lafayette, Hotchkiss, Spandau, Sten, Tommy, Bren . . .

The Jews started using tear gas and another new weapon called "Gazans," carried by the Flying Fortresses. These Gazans were huge concrete vessels filled with a ton of high explosives. Their impact caused terrible destruction and havoc.

ADVERSE CONDITIONS.

And it was the 4th November; the Fourth Brigade remained undaunted. The Jews were forced to review their unsuccessful plan. Instead of a general attack on a broad front they started to conduct separate attacks against the several strategic sites.

The situation behind the Egyptian front was far from satisfactory. The daily rations of the troops were reduced to a quarter of the normal issue. The daily order was "Spare your munitions." The only flour mill was destroyed by shell fire. The soldiers had to grind corn for their daily bread by means of a contraption made up of two mill-stone grit rollers hand operated by a single person. Each soldier had to be in the trenches for 20 hours a day, relieved for four hours' rest, then back to the trenches. There were no medical supplies nor real medical services for the wounded soldiers.

One day an Israeli car flying a white flag approached the Egyptian lines and was allowed to approach. The officer driving, named Cohen, said that the Jewish leader suggested a short break to remove corpses from "No Man's Land." The Black Hyena said, "I agree."

A HEROIC ACHIEVEMENT.

The fight was resumed a few hours later. This time the attack was directed against Iraq Swaidan, and the defence of the strong point will be an immortal record in the history of modern Egypt.

On November 7th, the site — which was no more than an ordinary police station — forming an outpost for the left Wing, was stormed by the Jewish heavy artillery for 36 hours. The walls of the site were soon demolished. The defenders used sandbags, but these were immediately dispersed. Now they had to fill in the gaps with the bodies of their fallen comrades. Munitions at Iraq Swaidan were completely exhausted. When the site finally fell, the charging Jews, armed with tear and other gasses, entered the ruins to find only a few surviving soldiers in a state of unconsciousness. When the Jewish

leader came across the stretcher where the Egyptian officer, Captain Salah El Din, commanding the site, was lying, he held out his hand and said, " I am pleased to address a brave soldier."

AGAIN COHEN.

This story of the brave Egyptian fighters of Iraq Swaidan was communicated to their friends at El Faluje by Cohen, who had come to ask for another break to remove 150 Jewish dead soldiers near Beit Affeh. Cohen's visits became more frequent, to remove corpses and bring presents to the Jewish prisoners in El Faluje. Every time his car now appeared, it was driven by a smart chauffeur who was named " Yakutcha " and was a beautiful Russian girl. The question naturally arises, " Was the choice of the smart driver sheer accident ? " It is left to the reader to answer.

LIFE BEHIND THE LINES.

Meanwhile the situation behind the Egyptian lines was getting worse and worse. The air lift which occasionally supplied the force with medical requirements, munitions and food was almost brought to a stop by the Jews, who set up a strong cordon of anti-aircraft guns, thus making air provision precarious and difficult. The besieged, under the pressure of necessity, started to make different forms of meals out of grain. In the morning they ate it boiled in water, without fat or sugar ; at lunch time as a pudding, and in the evening in powdered form. Vegetables were extremely scarce in El Faluje, so they used a sort of wild greens that grew on the roofs of houses. The children of El Faluje formed themselves into parties to collect this wild stuff. All tobacco was also gone and a foul-smelling herb called Tetine was substituted.

WAR OF NERVES.

Meanwhile, the Jews were carrying on an intensive war of nerves which now reached its climax. Since the siege started, planes dropped tens of thousands of leaflets each day designed to dishearten the soldiers. One of these slips had a photograph of two Arab warrior victims, with these words in blood-red colour, " Here you are . . . or ", and this " or " is explained illustratively on the next page, which showed some of the Arab prisoners playing tric-trac or reading the daily papers. The meaning which they wanted to convey was of course clear : either surrender and live ; or resist and die. On another occasion there was a four-page pamphlet with this sentence in big characters : " Surrender delivers you from this fate," and the four pages showed the graves of the martyrs of Deir Seneid, that of a certain Egyptian Lieutenant, M. K. Osman, and other graves.

AN ADDRESS TO THE HYENA.

Two days later there were more leaflets whose approach was more cunning. One had as its introduction: "To the Commander of the Fourth Brigade: You are doomed and there is no way out," and went on to say, addressing the Brigadier, "Where are you leading your men? Do you doubt for a moment that your force is completely encircled? Do you expect or hope that you possibly could or would be rescued? You are completely cut off and encircled. It is up to you: either life or death." The bill concluded with a reminder telling the troops to keep the pamphlet, which would save their lives!!

FIRE AGAINST NERVES.

Other methods in this war of nerves were employed. On some occasions indiscriminate firing went on for seven hours without cessation. On other occasions planes would soar up and roam about in the air above the Egyptian positions for half an hour and then suddenly and simultaneously would drop their destructive loads. When the ruins of Iraq Swaidan fort fell, the Jews used them as a base for another form of their nerve war. As the fort lay on a hillock which overlooked the country out to the Egyptian line of El Faluje and Iraq El Manshiye powerful searchlights were fixed on top, which reflected their powerful rays menacingly and slowly, swinging along the line cutting the obscurity of the night. The lights were accompanied by the noise of aircraft in flight.

THE HYENA DEFIES THE JEWS.

The Jews were labouring under the misapprehension that their nerve campaign had had its effect, and so they tried to harvest the supposed fruit. On November 11th, Cohen's car, with the usual smart driver, Yakutcha, appeared, flying a white flag. Cohen said that Brigadier Bernstein wanted to see the Black Hyena. The answer was direct and simple. "*I* will go and see him." This was a risky enterprise on the part of the gallant officer, for the word or bond of a Zionist, as everybody knows, does not always mean much. Again no outcome of peace was expected to materialise out of this interview. Still, the audacious soldier consented to go in order to convince the Jews of the fact that their campaign of nerves was fruitless and futile and that he, an officer of a regular army, regarded them as a band of rebels and outlaws.

THE ANALOGY OF VON PAULOUS.

The same day, accompanied by a few of his officers, the Hyena drove towards Gath, where a jeep was waiting to take him to the Jewish headquarters. When he arrived there was a "pleasant" sur-

prise waiting for him, characteristic of the Jewish ways: A line of especially attractive young women was waiting to cheer the Egyptian officers! ! Before the interview took place, the officers were "kindly" invited to have a "cup of tea," to be served to the accompaniment of tunes of the piano played by smart girls, which was no less than a huge Luculian banquet. The meaning was clear and the spirit of the hungry, weary officers was well expressed when their leader simply smiled in disdain and asked, "Is this what we have come here for ? " Bernstein, realising that his cheap trick was unsuccessful, started to praise the resistance and valour of the El Faluje force. He then proposed generous terms for surrender. The Hyena promptly stood up and answered with a broad smile. "We have not yet started the war, so obviously any talk about surrender is out of the question."

To this, the Jewish leader said, "You have certainly heard of Von Paulous, who bravely defended Stalingrad. He was a distinguished soldier, but he surrendered with his half a million men when he realised that the situation was hopeless. Your situation is even more desperate. I would like to advise you that, under these circumstances, surrender is the best way to save unnecessary human sacrifices and it is not an indication of failure."

"I cannot claim that I am as prudent as Von Paulous but my orders are to fight to the last shot . . . and I still have many shots. Let us be logical, as long as you are keen about saving unnecessary human sacrifices, your best plan is to order your men to cease fire in accordance with the terms of the Truce imposed by the Security Council on the 4th November."

"It *is* logical, but we are not going to do it. The resolutions of the Security Council are meaningless. We must force the Powers to recognise the de facto situation. I suppose you fully realise that your force cannot rely indefinitely on a precarious air-lift."

"This is none of your business."

"You have full liberty of action but you must realise that you are to blame for the blood of your men which will be vainlessly shed. Anyhow, my door will always be open for you, in case you want to approach me."

"Being the ultimate authority in El Faluje, I fully appreciate my men's and my own situation. We are not fighting for Palestine only, but for the dignity and prestige of Egypt, which are more honourable purposes than you can possibly imagine. You can rest assured that your door will be used only by your men and not by me. Is that clear ? "

" In this case I am sorry to have to tell you that your force and your situation constitute a serious danger to the Central Negeb Zone, and it is my duty to remove this danger at any cost."

" Please yourself, but you will eventually realise that we can take it."

ROYAL ESTEEM.

When Essayed Taha reached his headquarters, he received the news of a royal message of appreciation. He was now a Brigadier.

The analogy naturally suggests itself when Hitler conferred the rank of Marshal on Von Paulous during the siege of Stalingrad ; but there is one fundamental difference : Von Paulous surrendered soon after his promotion, while Essayed Taha remained adamant and invincible, in spite of the fatal destiny to which he was apparently doomed.

THE WOUNDED REFUSE . . .

The battle soon commenced again, more intense and more brutal than ever before. The wounded were the chief problem. On one occasion, Cohen offered to take wounded Egyptian soldiers to be treated in a Jaffa hospital and later to become prisoners of war. The men promptly refused the Jewish offer, preferring to die with their fellow-fighters. The medical officer, Dr. M. Safwat, had to undertake unusual operations, unheard of before. He had to amputate using a blacksmith's saw which he borrowed from the village blacksmith.

GENERAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN ARMY.

In order to eject the whole Egyptian Army from Palestine altogether, the Jews started an offensive in the Southern Front against Khan Yunis and Gaza sectors. The time estimated to complete this operation was 48 hours. The Zionists felt secure because the other fronts were inactive and no danger was expected. They mobilised all their mercenary forces, drawn from many parts of the world. They were armed with the most destructive and modern tanks and planes, supplied by both the democratic and communist countries. The armaments were of American, Russian and Czechoslovakian origin. The men were also armed with insolence, arrogance and complete disregard for the international institutions, while Egypt's reverence for them was fatal to her because she consequently deprived herself of the liberty of action.

The Jews now felt that they were strong enough to deal the final blow to the Egyptian army in two days. The Jewish commander pledged that he would clear the Egyptians from Gaza Section, otherwise he would not be seen alive. He actually fulfilled his pledge, I mean the second section of his pledge, for he died in the battle, with thousands of the best soldiers of Israel.

El Faluje was kept informed of the developments in the treacherous Jewish attack by means of broadcasts, none of which was Egyptian, and by means of Cohen's verbal accounts.

COUSIN, DON'T BE SHAKEN.

Meanwhile the Jews had started another strong offensive against El Faluje, which reached its climax on the 22nd December. There was a terrific bombardment. On the 27th, the attack was directed with furious energy against Iraq El Manshiye, and the outer fortifications were captured. The enemy actually managed to occupy some of the village houses. The Egyptian soldiers put up a resistance more desperate than anything the Jews had yet encountered. A successful offensive was eventually effected by a rapid dash on the part of the Egyptians, which ended by encircling the attacking Jewish force and inflicting 500 Jewish victims and many being taken prisoner. It was a miraculous achievement. Meanwhile Essayed Taha had received a wireless message from Fouad Pacha Sadek, the Commanding General, who was meanwhile crushing the Jewish assault in the main front, saying, " Cousin, don't be shaken."

A SHOWER OF PAMPHLETS.

Cohen now appeared again to arrange the removal of Jewish corpses, which this time numbered 500.

On New Year's Eve the Jewish offensive reached its high watermark. It was a dreadful night and thousands of shells fell on the Egyptian lines between the hours of 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. One of the shells struck the field headquarters of the Black Hyena and wrecked it. Fortunately the Brigadier was not a casualty — he was with his troops, distributing cigarettes among them. The unabating Jewish attack went on for days, and was successfully repelled by the Egyptian artillery. Again relief columns received and returned fire back while on their way to and from the front line. The Commander of the force was everywhere. His permanent headquarters being completely demolished, in his new ones the heaps of pamphlets, bills, leaflets and other instruments of Jewish written propaganda supplied a welcome material for the fires of the Commander and his officers . . .

A ROUT.

So on this front, El Faluje was the unbreakable nut which taught the Jews an unforgettable lesson, while in the main front the "all-out" offensive on Gaza and Khan Yunis Sectors was repulsed after a furious struggle and at a cost heavy beyond anything that the Jews had yet imagined. Thus ended this dramatic episode in the history of the Egyptian army, a masterpiece of stubborn resistance, dash, spontaneity and tactical skill.

On one occasion, in order to give the newspapers sensational stuff for propaganda, a Jewish column crossed the Egyptian boundary, which is only an imaginary, conventional line, drawn on the map across uninhabited barren desert, more than a hundred miles before the Suez Canal. The Egyptian air force dealt well with this encroaching force and almost entirely annihilated it, leaving an unappreciable fraction to hasten back in a disorderly way, pretending as if it had lost its way and as if it never meant to trespass on our country.

On another occasion the Jews had a "pleasant" surprise when a new effective weapon, initiated and manufactured solely by Egyptian brains and Egyptian hands, was first put into operation in the field.*

As we are chiefly concerned in this paper with the El Faluje dramatic episode, it is not intended to give an account of the achievements of the main Egyptian army in this section. The army is still there and the Palestine war is still unfinished: only the preface has been written.

S.O.S.

Now that the Jews failed to repel the Egyptian army and realised the failure of their de facto policy, they feared the Egyptian army might ignore the truce imposed by the Security Council and turn to the offensive. The plan most beneficial to them now was to appeal to the U.S.A. for help, which they did. Consequently America volunteered to act as mediator and guaranteed on behalf of the unreliable Jews that any truce would be honoured and observed by them. Egypt could not and would not offend the great powers of the world who were supporting the Jewish aggression. Consequently, Egypt accepted the armistice again and so the historical episode of El Faluje was concluded after 130 days.

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*The weapon, which was a new development of the "flame thrower," ejected flames to a range of 200 metres, burning and destroying everything within that area.

A PERFECT GENTLEMAN.

On January 7th, the Black Hyena received for the third time orders of cease-fire in conformity with the resolution of the Security Council which the Jews promised to abide by. The Rhodes talks started.

On the next day, the El Faluje force was surprised to see an armoured car approaching rapidly their lines. A lady, with a Quaker badge on her arm, got out and introduced herself as Mrs. Moore. She said that it had been agreed that necessary provisions would be supplied to the encircled force until the siege was finally raised. She asked the stunned soldiers what they wanted. When they recovered from the pleasant surprise they started to express their several wishes.

Presently the Hyena arrived, blacker than ever, with large red eyes, untidy hair and soiled with the mud of the trenches. He could hardly believe his eyes. When he realised what was happening, like the perfect gentleman he is, he bowed to the lady and kissed her hand smartly and respectfully.

WHY FOR ?

The rest of the story is too well known to be repeated. The Rhodes talks dragged on because the Egyptians were unfairly asked to evacuate El Faluje, the place which had cost them so much to keep and defend. The civilian population, who had helped and supported the army, was very anxious about their future. They knew well that when the Egyptians were gone, they would be left to the vindictive Jew, who showed his atrocities in Deir Yassin and other parts of Palestine, killing the men, mutilating women, often criminally assaulting them.

Although the Jews guaranteed full safety to the civilian population of El Faluje, the latter felt very insecure. They had long since lost all confidence in the efficiency of UNO and had no more trust in the justice of the West or the humaneness of America and England. They consequently would sooner evacuate their motherland where there forefathers lived from time immemorial. They preferred to wander with the hundreds of thousands of other fugitives, threatened with death. They would welcome death, which would deliver them from the tyranny of this world, which is dominated by the Jews ; the Jews who are supported by both the democratic and communist camps.

EVACUATION OF EL FALUJE.

The Egyptian government responded to the resolutions of the UNO and the army marched out of El Faluje on February 26th, with

full honours, maintaining its military reputation and enjoying a high prestige. The army marched out with flying colours and carrying their arms, with the exception of the ammunition which inflicted such deadly losses on the Jewish army. The 10th March was a great day of national rejoicing, when the victorious army marched through the streets of Cairo in triumph. The invincible brigade's hold on El Faluje was never shaken and its stubborn, triumphant resistance forms a glorious page in the annals of military history. The advance of the Egyptian army was phenomenal until it received orders to stop in accordance with the resolutions of the UNO. It stopped ; but never retreated one inch. It remained adamant and unconquerable. Had the army received orders to attack the Jewish colonies, it would have swept them away, but it never received such orders because this war was not between the Arabs and the Jews, but between the Arabs and those who stand in their way. It was the battle of the East and the West. The time is not far off when the East will be fully equipped and completely ready to deal firmly with its opponents.

WHAT HAS THE PALESTINE EXPEDITION PROVED?

II.

THE URGENCY OF EVACUATION.

The Palestine expedition has proved convincingly that the last excuse of the British to remain in Egypt has now no leg to stand on. We do not want to recount history or give a survey of events since the British aggression on Egypt in 1882. But the aggression is still going on by the presence of the British garrison in the Suez Canal Zone.

That we are entitled to have our country evacuated by the British is plainly and simply our natural right which nobody on earth can dispute and nobody on earth can deprive us of. It is as such that the point does not need any further elaboration or support.

UNO RESOLVES . . .

On the 14th December, 1946, in Flushing Meadow, the General Assembly of the U.N., whom England says it maintains and supports, passed a resolution in its ordinary meeting which stipulated the urgency of the withdrawal without delay of the armed forces of member states from the territories of other members. Here is the official text of the aforesaid resolution :

The General Assembly " Recommends the members to undertake the progressive and balanced withdrawal, taking into account the needs of occupation of their armed forces stationed in ex-enemy territories, **and the withdrawal without delay of members without their consent freely and publicy** expressed in treaties or agreements consistent with the Charter and not contradicting international agreements."

The Resolution makes it incumbent that withdrawal of armed forces stationed in the territories of members should be effected without delay unless it is consented to freely and publicly. Did not Egypt persist during the last seventy years in expressing her disapproval of the occupation of her lands ? Was not the national large-scale revolution of 1919 an unmistakable display of disapproval ? Did not Egypt and her Prime Minister use the strongest, not to say the harshest, civilised methods to make it clear that our country wants to live as a sovereign independent political community ?

What do the British want us to do? Do they want us to deal with their army in the same way as the Zionists did in Palestine? If this is the only comprehensible language to the British, I would like to make it clear, that we shall talk to them in that language in due course, that is to say when we are finally assured that they refrain to listen to the voice of logic, prudence and reason.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLVES . . .

When discussing the Egyptian question in the summer of 1947, the Security Council passed the resolution that the British Forces must evacuate Egypt. As the resolution did not give full satisfaction to the Egyptian claims, Egypt objected to it. Egypt had not objected to the resolution it would have been executed. England would have evacuated at once, as she did in Palestine.

Referring to this Anglo-Egyptian dispute, Mr. Gromyco, in the General Assembly annual session in April, 1949, has taken up this point as a basis for an attack on the British policy, maintaining that it was Britain, and not Russia, which disregarded the resolutions passed by the Security Council.

Anyhow, the Egyptian cause is still in suspense before the Security Council. Egypt can, and will, ask for a reconsideration of her cause as soon as she realises that England is not going to evacuate by the 1st SEPTEMBER, 1949.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PLEDGED . . .

In the Third Appendix to the Papers relating to the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations, the British Government announced on October 25th, 1946, their intention to evacuate Egypt in September, 1949. The official text of the Draft Treaty runs as follows:

> "The High Contracting Parties agree that the complete evacuation of Egyptian territory by the British Forces shall be completed by 1st September, 1949."

Now September is approaching rapidly, and it does not seem likely that the British intend to carry out their pledge.

The contention that Egypt refused to sign the treaty, so consequently she is not entitled to claim the benefits offered by it, is definitely plausible and utterly immaterial. It is a question of, as Shakespeare has put it in his universally known dictum, "To be or not to be"; is it our right, or is it not our right? There is no significance at all in whether the treaty was signed or not.

If it is our right, as it obviously is, England must discharge its commitment to us unconditionally. It is a case of exploitation when England tries to procure an unfair agreement with Egypt by duress or undue influence or coercion in return for a pledge for evacuation. Such an agreement is null and void and is not worth the scrap of paper used for the purpose. This is the case of the 1936 Treaty.

The evacuation should not be conditional at all on the negotiating or concluding of a treaty, because it is incumbent that evacuation should be effected beforehand, and negotiations, if any, will come after. All Egypt is perfectly agreed on this point.

THE INVALID 1936 TREATY.

The last card for England is the 1936 Treaty.

Egypt has made her voice heard loudly and clearly that she is not bound by that treaty because, on one hand, it was procured under duress and undue influence and furthermore, it has exhausted its purpose. Again world conditions have fundamentally changed since it was concluded. A treaty between two powers derives the essence of its value and efficiency from the willingness of the two parties to execute its terms. It loses all its value if one of the parties or both are reluctant to give it their full, conscientious, mutual support.

But England has taken a different attitude that reflects a minimum of goodwill on her intentions towards Egypt. It appears that England intends to ignore Egypt's wishes and take no notice of her (Egypt's) approval or disapproval, being fully confident that when the time comes she can use her material force to get a forced discharge of all that she needs from Egypt. This is the fundamental reason why Egypt insists on the revocation of the treaty and the evacuation of the last British soldier from the Nile Valley, because we realise fully that the British soldier is there in order to exercise force against us when England pleases.

Again, although England sticks to the treaty and claims that she honours its terms, we shall now show that, from a practical point of view, she does not do so. Britain disrespected the Treaty chiefly in two main issues :

(a) The size of the British garrison in the Suez Canal Zone.
(b) Britain's attitude in the Sudan.

(a) The Size of the British Garrison in the Suez Canal Zone.

10,000 SOLDIERS

The 1936 Treaty, Annex 8, stipulates that not more than 10,000 soldiers and 400 pilots should be maintained in the Canal Zone.

This is the text:

"1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 7, the numbers of the forces of His Majesty the King and Emperor to be maintained in the vicinity of the Canal shall not exceed of the land forces 10,000 and of the air forces 400 pilots, together with the necessary ancillary personnel for administrative and technical duties."

The number actually maintained now is not in accordance with the stipulation of the treaty, but is about 50,000.

(b) Britain's Attitude in the Sudan.

The British policy in the Sudan is another flagrant breach of the unfortunate 1936 Treaty. It is not our intention here to elaborate on this point, as this vital issue of the Sudan is the subject of a special paper which will be issued soon after this one, giving a detailed survey of the British policy there, confirmed by facts, statistics and official documents, proving the glaring encroachment on the joint rights of the Egyptians and Sudanese.

Thus England's excuse for staying in Egypt — that she abides by the Treaty — is unfounded because she does not carry out its terms. It is not the treaty which supports England in the occupation of our country. It is only material force.

The alleged pretext for maintaining a British Garrison in the Canal Zone.

Now let us take the discussion a stage further.

What pretext is given in the treaty to stipulate that 10,000 men and 400 pilots should be stationed in Egypt? It was alleged when the treaty was concluded that the Egyptian army could not defend the Canal.

Now, if for the sake of hypothetical argument only, we allowed this pretext some respect in 1936 because the British have always opposed the idea of an Egyptian national army, today the picture is quite different and the evidence can be easily drawn from the history of the Egyptian army in the Second World War and in the Palestine war.

All through the Second World War, it was thanks to the Egyptian army that the Canal was kept open, because it was our army and anti-aircraft guns alone which defended the Canal day and night during seven years. Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Bevin may be quoted in this respect. Mr. Winston Churchill said, when he addressed the House of Commons on February 25th, 1945:

"Egyptian troops have during the war played an important part. They have maintained order throughout the Delta; they have guarded many strong points and depots and in all kinds of ways they have been of assistance to our war effort."

Mr. Bevin, present Minister of Foreign Affairs, said on this same subject before a session of the United Nations General Assembly on December 14th, 1946:

"I believe that all the Allies have a great debt towards Egypt for the services rendered during the war."

Again the potentialities of the Egyptian army can be easily appreciated when we realise the severe test which a section of our army in El Faluje has faced and has passed with honours because of its inherent tenacity and valour. Its hold on the strategic site of El Faluje was never shaken, as we have just shown.

Is there any weight in an argument that alleges that an army with such potentialities cannot defend a small waterway 100 miles in length that runs through its own soil, when adequately supplied with arms, tanks, planes and heavy guns?

AN EGYPTIAN ARMY OF 2,000,000 MEN.

In case of war Egypt can raise a potential army of one million, if supplied, like Turkey, with the necessary armaments from England and America. This figure can be extended to two millions, when the Sudan is united with Egypt. It far exceeds what England and the U.S. can jointly raise for the defence of this part of the world. Egypt will be disposed to mobilize such a huge army only when she is fully independent and united with the Sudan, in which case she will be defending her own home and not the British Empire. That makes all the difference.

To conclude: EGYPT IS NOW GIVING U.K. AN OPTION.

(1) Carry on with this policy of territorial occupation and we are afraid you will continue to be without the confidence and friendship of Egypt and incur her hostility. In this case the British taxpayer will have to pay millions of pounds to keep a huge standing army, both in peace and war.

or (2) Withdraw your forces from the entire Nile Valley and you will secure our friendship and co-operation.

THIS IS OUR CAUSE, PLAINLY AND BRIEFLY. IT IS UP TO ENGLAND AND AMERICA TO CHOOSE. ON OUR PART, WE, THE EGYPTIANS AND SUDANESE, ARE DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE OUR AIMS.